

Application No. 10/518047
Responsive to the Office Action dated January 5, 2010

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is requested in view of the following remarks. Claim 1 has been amended editorially to clarify the definition of the first agent. The amendment to claim 1 makes no substantive change in the claim scope and raises no new issues.

Claims 1-3 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, not complying with the written description requirement. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

The specification discloses that the first agent including the reducing agent can be used for both permanent waving and hair straightening (see page 8, line 23 – page 9, line 1). Also, the first agents in examples 11-16 in the specification of the present application are those for hair straightening (see pages 21-26). Accordingly, Applicants convey with reasonable clarity to those of ordinary skill in the art that Applicants were in possession of the first agent for hair straightening at the time of filing the present application.

In addition, the indicated purpose of the invention of claim 1 is to resolve problems caused by the cationic polymer in the first agent such as taking a long time for rinsing out the first agent in the intermediate rinsing step, difficulties of penetration of the second agent due to the remaining first agent, which causes flat hair, no bouncing waves, dripping of the first agent, and uneven waving or straightening of hair (see page 2, lines 11-20 and comparative examples 1-7 in tables 3-4 on pages 17-18 of the specification). To resolve these problems, the cationic polymer is removed from the first agent (see for example, examples 1-9 and 11-16 in tables 1-2 on pages 15-16 and pages 21-26 of the specification). In view of the indicated purpose of the invention discussed above and comparative examples 1-7 in the specification (see *id.* in tables 3-4 on pages 17-18), which include either the cationic polymer made solely of the dimethyl diallyl ammonium chloride monomer or that made of another monomer in addition to the dimethyl diallyl ammonium chloride monomer and exhibit inferior properties to those of examples 1-9 and 11-16 (see *id.* in tables 1-2 on pages 15-16), Applicants convey with reasonable

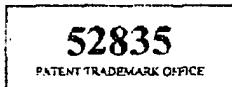
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clarity to ordinary skill in the art that Applicants were in possession of the first agent that does not include a cationic polymer that is made of at least one monomer including the dimethyl diallyl ammonium chloride monomer as claim 1 recites.

Accordingly, claim 1 and its dependent claims comply with the written description requirement, and this rejection should be withdrawn.

In view of the above, Applicants request reconsideration of the application in the form of a Notice of Allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



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